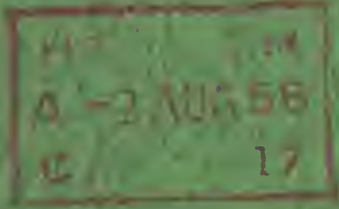


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COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1955

JUNE 1956

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
COALVILLE.

COALVILLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1955.

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

at 31st December 1955

Chairman:

Councillor R.H.E. Glover

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J.F. Randle

Councillors: G.W.Glover, Mrs. M.A.Griffin, S.H.K.Gurley, A.H.Moore,
A. Roome and Mrs. V.M.Smith.

Ex-officio: Councillor J. R. Willn (Chairman of the Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical:

Andrew Hamilton, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. Hunter, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector.
N.A. Shutes, C.R.S.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector to 15th April, 1955.
E.H. Roberts, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector.
D. Allen, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector from
22nd August, 1955.

Clerical Staff:

W.K.B. Tracey.
Mrs. E.A.Stokhof to 31st July, 1955.

Rodent Operator: T. Grew.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Coalville.

To : The Coalville Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1955.

The Report follows the general lines indicated in Circular 17/55, dated 23rd November, 1955, from the Ministry of Health, and includes the information asked for in Circular 28/54, dated 15th December, 1954.

However, as this is the thirtieth annual report which I have placed before you, I propose to take the opportunity to make some comments and to supply some statistics concerning those thirty years. I know that statistics may be made to prove anything, and that they may be very dry reading, but I seek to show the extensions and improvements which have taken place in our own little area in that time.

In 1926, when I was appointed Medical Officer of Health, part-time, the other members of your public health staff were one Sanitary Inspector, who was also Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer (Mr. L. L. Baldwin), one qualified Sanitary Inspector (Mr. B. Greenwood), and one Scavenging Superintendent (Mr. R. Williams). In 1937, the duties of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor were divorced, and Mr. Greenwood was appointed Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. N. A. Shutes Additional Sanitary Inspector. In 1939, came the War, and almost the whole time of your Sanitary Inspectors was engaged on billeting duties for evacuees with inevitable dislocation of the real work of the Department. In 1941, a whole-time Billeting Officer was appointed and the normal work of the department was more or less resumed. The volume of work increased to such an extent that in 1946 another Additional Sanitary Inspector was appointed, in 1950 Mr. Greenwood, to whose worth I cannot pay high enough tribute, died, and he was succeeded by your present Chief Inspector, Mr. Hunter, now ably assisted by the members of the staff indicated earlier in the report. I must not omit to mention the appointment in 1944 of Mr. Grew as Rodent Operator, and he is still with us.

In 1926, the area of the district was 6,292 acres, increased in 1936 to 6,453 acres by alterations in the boundaries, and further increased by 58 acres in 1954 to 6,511 acres. The estimated population in 1926 was 22,190, increased by about 2,400 in 1936 through the alteration in the boundaries, and is now 25,840. The number of births during the 30 years under review was 12,455, the highest rate being in 1946 (22.2), and the lowest in 1935 (14.2). The number of deaths was 7,720, the highest death rate being recorded in 1941 (12.6) and the lowest in 1928 (8.6).

The excess of births over deaths was 4,735, to which add the 2,400 persons taken in in 1936, and to this add the estimated population in 1926 (22,190). This gives a figure of 29,325 which should have been the population had there been no migration. But the present estimated population is 25,840, which means that 3,485 people have gone furth of the district in these 30 years. A proportion of this figure may no doubt be due to the return of children born to evacuees to the original homes of their parents, but the proportion so accounted for must be a small one.

The Infantile Mortality Rate in 1926 was 98, the highest recorded, in 1955 it is 40, but the lowest figure was reported in 1951 (24).

In 1926, the ambulance service was provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, one ambulance, driven by Mr. J. Carson. What a difference today! In spite of criticisms one hears occasionally of the present service, I feel they are often unjustified and frequently capable of very simple and very reasonable explanation, and I have no doubt that the very much increased service now available is conducted on efficient lines.

Then, as now, there was no hospital locally, and I am happy to know that this is a lack which may be remedied, provided the Regional Hospital Board adheres to its present intention.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic, staffed by the County Council, was held in premises in Marlborough Square, and an Orthopaedic Clinic was started in the same premises in 1928, largely through the action of the local Nursing Association, and mostly staffed by voluntary helpers. In 1932, the Clinic in Bridge Road was opened, and those activities transferred there, as was the work of the Tuberculosis Clinic which had previously been conducted at the Tuberculosis Dispensary in Bakewell Street. It was also in 1932 that Markfield Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium was opened, with the present Superintendent, Dr. Selby, in charge.

In 1926, the water supply was obtained from Broomleys only, the number of gallons pumped being 114,691,150. In 1927, supplies were first obtained from Whitwick Colliery, in 1931 from Ellistown Colliery, and in 1945 from Holly Hayes. In 1954, the number of gallons pumped was 293,976,000. The number of houses connected to the mains in 1926 was 4,344; in 1955, 7,627.

There have been frequent extensions to water mains and to sewers, but the effects of mining subsidence have been considerable, and have been a constant source of anxiety to the responsible officials, and a very expensive item so far as the ratepayers are concerned. It would appear that there is little prospect of relief so far as anxiety goes, and so far as expense is concerned it does not seem fair that the burden should continue to be borne locally, more particularly as coal is now the property of the nation.

The number of dustbins in use in 1926 was 2,388 (74 only in 1921), and the number in use in 1955 was 8,900. The estimated number of privies in 1926 was 1,238, but a survey in 1928 showed that this number was an underestimate by about 160. With the change in boundaries in 1936, an additional 530 privies came within the district. There now remain only 40 privies and 121 pail closets, and of those only 12 privies and 8 pail closets are in sewered areas. During my tenure of office, about 1,900 privies have been abolished. There is no doubt that the contribution made of recent years by the Council towards the cost of conversions has been a help in bringing about this very satisfactory state of affairs, but the problem had been considerably eased by 1939. After the war, only the hard core remained, and it has been in dealing with that that the contribution has been helpful.

The number of W.C.s in 1926 was given as 2,708, now it is 8,713.

The number of houses in 1926 was 4574 (1921 census 4147), now it is 7684. I estimate that in 30 years about 2,500 houses have been erected by the Local Authority and by private enterprise.

As you are aware, nearly 300 houses are to be demolished in the first five years of your Slum Clearance Programme, but there are no slums in the area comparable to those found in large towns. As the Chief Sanitary Inspector stated in his report for 1953, the ravages of time plus the years of neglect have left their mark on many dwellings; and, of course the ten years of inactivity in repair and upkeep of houses, following the outbreak of war in 1939, created its own problems. In spite of those unpalatable facts, the general standard of housing is, in my opinion, far higher than it was thirty years ago, the amenities of the average house are now much better,

/and

and coincident with the greater prosperity of the town as compared with, for instance, the early thirties one notices quite definitely the better furnishing of most homes, a higher standard of cleanliness, and a justifiable pride in these achievements.

This happier state of affairs has been arrived at by dint of hard work and application by nearly all. Yet, a Trade Union official is reported to have said recently "Who wants to work anyway?" What a philosophy of life! Would he have us cease to work and give up all that has been gained? And does he think that not to work is to be happy? Those of us who have witnessed the effects of short time and unemployment on the morale and outlook of workmen and their families can give the lie to that. If it is all play and leisure he wants, Shakespeare had the answer when he wrote :- "If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work".

In 1926 inspection of meat was taking place but no record was kept of the number of animals examined, although in that year 326 visits were paid to slaughter houses and 146 inspections of meat stalls, shops, stores etc were made. Increasing interest in and attention to the supervision and inspection of food is shown by the fact that by 1930, 843 inspections of slaughter houses at the time of slaughter were made, whilst by 1938, the first year for which is available the number of animals inspected 6810 were killed and 6496 inspected.

In 1940 the private slaughter houses were closed and all slaughtering concentrated at the Regional slaughterhouse in Ravenstone Road. In that year, 12,888 animals were slaughtered, including cottagers pigs, 12532 being inspected at the time. This number varied within smallish limits until 1946 when the number killed was 16,147 and the number inspected 16,145. The year 1952 saw the peak, 18644 being slaughtered, and all were inspected at the time. In 1954, six of the former slaughterhouses were brought into use again after alterations intended to improve them had been carried out and the Regional Slaughterhouse as such ceased to function. In 1955, 12445 animals were killed and all were inspected at the time. The number of visits for the purpose was 984. The weight of meat condemned as a result of these inspections varied between 25 cwts. in 1928 and 65 tons in 1950.

The number of inspections of food premises increased correspondingly from 146 in 1926 to 795 in 1948 with 99 revisits, and last year the figure was 568.

Milk sampling has always occupied much time and attention. In 1926, 85 samples were taken of which 36% were described as good and 43% as bad. In 1933, for the first time, samples were submitted for biological examination as well as for bacteriological testing, and few years passed without one or more of the biological samples

/being

being reported as positive to T.B. The largest number of samples submitted was in 1948 when 198 were submitted for bacteriological examination, 14 being unsatisfactory (about 7%) and 49 for biological exam with two positives. In 1955, the numbers were 103 with 15 unsatisfactory (15%) and 64 with one positive for T.B. and others for Brucella Abortus, which by the way was first mentioned in my 1952 report.

Ice Cream first received attention in my report for 1947, during which year 17 samples were submitted and the attached table shows the results since then :-

	<u>Samples</u>	<u>Grade I.</u>	<u>II.</u>	<u>III.</u>	<u>IV.</u>
1947	17	5	2	3	4
1948	26	14		3	9
1949	55	35	18	1	1
1950	34	27	4	1	2
1951	17	15	2		
1952	23	19	3	1	
1953	19	17	2		
1954	19	18	1		
1955	24	18	5	1	

During the course of inspection of food premises a considerable quantity of food is examined yearly and a substantial amount of various kinds is condemned.

An attempt has been made to indicate the increased supervision of food which has taken place, encouraged by public interest and legislation. It is obviously essential that much attention should continue to be paid to this branch of our work - for example, although the improvement in the reports on milk samples described as unsatisfactory - 43% in 1926, 15% in 1955 - is encouraging, the 1955 figure is such as to show clearly that there is no room for complacency.

The discovery of the tubercle bacillus in samples submitted for biological examination results in the weeding out from herds of animals so infected, and this undoubtedly has played a prominent part in the reduction of non-respiratory tuberculosis.

The attached table shows the incidence of some of the commoner infectious diseases during the last 30 years, the numbers in brackets showing the deaths.

	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Diphtheria</u>	<u>Pneumonia</u>	<u>Oph.Neon.</u>	<u>Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia</u>
1926-30	449(1)	299(13)	223(49)	16	9(1)
1931-35	265(1)	82(10)	194(53)	13	13(3)
1936-40	460	312(22)	242(65)	13	16(2)
1941-45	304(1)	93(5)	232(52)	7	8
1946-50	239	5(1)	295(46)	7	10
1951-55	159	0	367(32)	1	9

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>		<u>Whooping</u>	
	<u>Pulm.</u>	<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	<u>Cough.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>
1926-30	173(80)	70(18)		
1931-35	123(80)	38(18)		
1936-40	55(59)	50(11)		
1941-45	92(73)	77(22)	504(2)	1740(1)
1946-50	90(58)	35(5)	805(2)	1995(1)
1951-55	79(29)	12(1)	574	1216

Scarlet Fever notifications have dropped considerably, and this is a disease which is now much milder than it formerly was. Diphtheria is dealt with elsewhere in this report. The notifications of pneumonia continue at a high level but again this is a disease which has changed in character. The drop in mortality coincides with the introduction of the sulpha drugs and antibiotics, a remark which also applies to the mortality from puerperal infection, tuberculosis; measles and whooping cough. Taking the puerperal notifications, the ophthalmia notifications and the infantile mortality rate into consideration it is obvious that it is much safer both for mother and baby than it was even 20 years ago.

In the years 1926 to 1946 inclusive, 19 deaths were attributed to measles, 1946 to date 1(1947); to whooping cough 29, 1946 to date 2 (1948); to diphtheria 48, 1946 to date 1(1949); diarrhoea under 2 years 67, 1946 to date 8 (5 in 1947 and 3 in 1950). Although we have been fortunate in recording so few deaths from whooping cough and measles since those became notifiable they are not to be regarded as without danger, as both leave important effects behind them, which may well affect the health of the individual throughout his entire life.

Tuberculosis is referred to elsewhere in this report.

The desirability of a scheme for immunisation against diphtheria was first mentioned in my report for 1934, but it was not possible to put such a scheme into operation until 1940. 6,880 children were immunised between that date and July 5th, 1948, when the responsibility for immunisation passed to the County Council.

In 1929, 1930 and 1931 we had 152 cases of smallpox, fortunately of a mild type, with one death in an elderly person. In 1934, there were 5 cases of enteric fever with one death, and in 1945, there were 4 cases with no deaths. The 1945 cases were part of an outbreak which affected people throughout the Midlands, after a visit to an institution not far from Coalville, where they had partaken of a strawberry milk shake at a near-by cafe, the milk shake having been prepared with raw water from an adjoining stream, which was believed to have been fouled by an Italian prisoner-of-war whilst working on the land near.

Anterior poliomyelitis is a disease now much in the public mind. Our experience with it has been fortunate as since 1926 only 21 notifications have been received with one death. Other diseases, notably dysentery, have come more within our ken in recent years, but so far, have given no cause for undue anxiety.

Deaths from cancer have shown a steady increase over the years, 27 in 1926, 49 in 1955. There is no doubt that part of this increase is due to improved methods of diagnosis, but there is also a real increase in its incidence. Since the end of the war, deaths from heart disease, diseases of the circulatory system, and cerebral vascular lesions have shown a steady increase.

1948 saw the introduction of the National Health Service. On the whole, it has made little or no impact on the routine work of the department. It has however, been a great boon to the people of these Islands, and although there may be abuse of it in different ways, I feel on the whole that it is used with discretion by most. I would say, all the same, that the greatest advance made in medicine has been the introduction of the sulpha drugs and antibiotics, before the institution of the Health Service, which, however, has made them generally speaking available to the whole of the population, even to the poorest.

In conclusion, I would like to put on record my appreciation of the kindness and courtesy which I have invariably received from successive Chairmen and Members of Council, and of the co-operation I have always had from other members of your staff, without exception. My association with all has been an inspiration and has made my work a pleasure at all times.

For information supplied respecting water supplies, sewerage and public cleansing and contained later in this Report, I wish to thank your Surveyor and Water Engineer, and once more my thanks to the members of the staff of my own department for their ungrudging work and enthusiasm during the year.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

Herbert Hamilton

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,511
Population (1951 census)	25,739
Population (est. middle 1955)	25,840
Number of inhabited houses (end 1955)	7,684
Rateable value (1955)	£127,154
Product of ld rate (1955)	£473

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	199	186	385
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>203</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>393</u>
Crude Birth Rate	15.2 per 1,000 population.		
Adjusted Birth Rate	14.7	" "	"
(Adjusted Birth Rate 1954	14.9	" "	")
England and Wales 1955	15.0	" "	"

Still Births:

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
Crude Still Birth Rate	24.8 per 1,000 total (live and still) births		
Adjusted Still Birth Rate	24	" "	"
(Adjusted " " " 1954	42.1	" "	")
England and Wales 1955	23.1	" "	"

Deaths:

	M.	F.	Total.
	160	104	264
Crude Death Rate	10.2 per 1,000 population.		
Adjusted Death Rate	11.0	" "	"
(Adjusted Death Rate 1954	10.2	" "	")
England and Wales 1955	11.7	" "	"

/Maternal

Maternal Mortality

Total Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births 0.0
England and Wales, 1955 .64

Infantile Mortality

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	8	8	16
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>

Infantile mortality rate 40.7 per 1,000 live births
" " " (1954) 35 " " " "
England and Wales. 24.9 " " " "
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 41.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0

Neo-natal Mortality - Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks.

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>

Death rate of Infants under 4 weeks 25 per 1,000 live births
" " " " " (1954) 30.2 " " "
England and Wales 1955 17.3

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

A review of the above was given in a previous Annual Report and there has been no change since then, with the exception that the privately owned nursing home in London Road was again in use during the whole of the year.

Laboratory facilities continue to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Groby Road, Leicester. During 1955, the following examinations were carried out for your authority:

Blood	3
Throat and nose swabs	6
Faeces and urine	43
Sputa	83
Milk	118
Ice-Cream	26
Water	20
Whooping Cough	18
Miscellaneous	17
	<hr/>
Total	334
	<hr/>

No action was taken during the year under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, but in one case was contemplated. We were however, able to persuade a single man living under very poor conditions and badly in need of care and attention to enter voluntarily the Market Bosworth Infirmary.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply for the area is obtained from the new red sandstone measures overlying the coal measures, water being pumped from boreholes and pit shafts sunk into and through these measures respectively. These public supplies are situated at Broom Leys Pumping Station, Holly Hayes Pumping Station, Whitwick Colliery and Ellistown Colliery, and all water from these sources is chlorinated, the Ellistown and Whitwick Colliery supplies also being filtered.

The average daily output from these sources during the year was :

Broom Leys	...	...	...	235,150 gallons
Holly Hayes	...	...	...	178,433 gallons
Whitwick and Ellistown				
Collieries	...			403,383 gallons

The total quantity of water pumped from the various sources during the year was 298,193,000 gallons, an increase of 4,217,000 gallons compared with 1954.

42,368,000 gallons were supplied in bulk to Market Bosworth Rural District Council, an increase of 7,830,000 gallons on the 1954 figures.

Daily consumption for the Urban area for all purposes averaged 27.6 gallons per head of the population.

The new boreholes and pumps at Holly Hayes are now in continuous operation and working satisfactorily. Booster pumps were completed during the year thus making a supply of towns water available to the Warren Hills high level area and to Agar Nook.

Mining subsidence continues to disrupt water supplies by the fracturing of mains and service pipes. Inconvenience and danger to consumers is kept to a minimum by the unselfish attention to faults as they arise by the Water Engineer and his staff.

The required standard of purity for a public water supply was maintained during 1955. 8 samples of raw (untreated) water and 9 of treated water going into supply were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, with the following results:-

Whitwick Colliery		Ellistown Colliery		Holly Hayes		Broom Leys Pumping Station	
Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.	Raw	Treat.
-2	-2	-1	-3	-	-3	-2	-1
+2		+1					

7,627 houses in the area have an internal water supply direct from the public mains, and 8 houses are supplied from standpipes or taps in outbuildings.

49 houses, including some outlying farms, have no water supply from public sources.

Now that a towns supply of water is available in the Warren Hills and Agar Nook areas, there is no longer any excuse for the continued use of the shallow wells. It is hoped that owners of property will take advantage of this supply for it has taken many years and much effort on the part of the Officers of the Council to ensure its provision. One would have thought that little or no persuasion would be required but at the end of the year, not a single property had been connected. Such apathy is quite beyond my comprehension. It is in the public interest that there should be no further delay in abolishing the wells which in the main are grossly polluted. Failing voluntary action, we shall have no alternative but to recommend that use be made of the Council's Statutory powers to compel owners to connect their properties to the new water main.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

It is pleasing to report that there was none of the aforementioned apathy in the Melbourne Road area, where the Council during the year laid a new 9" sewer with its out fall to Kelham Bridge Sewage Farm. There was a refreshing readiness on the part of all the owners to connect their properties to the sewer very often at great expense to themselves. Thus in a matter of a few months a major public health nuisance was abated by the abolition of a number of over-flowing cesspools and the conversion of several pail closets to water closets.

Progress continued to be made during the year on the construction of the new northern outfall main drainage scheme and the laying of a new sewer was almost completed at the end of the year.

There would appear to have been some slight reduction in the number of private drains affected by mining subsidence. This is reflected in the fewer visits which have had to be made by your inspectors. It is,

however, likely to be a passing phase for with the opening of new seams, further damage is anticipated.

Some progress was made in improving the drainage systems at properties incapable of being connected to a public sewer by the construction of septic tanks in approved positions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Public cleansing and scavenging are under the control of your Surveyor, to whom I am indebted for the information. These services are provided for the whole of the area. Six motor refuse collection vehicles are employed for this purpose.

Over the greater part of the year the collection of domestic refuse took place at 8 to 9 day intervals, although following holiday periods and during inclement weather the collections were not so frequent. Pail closets were emptied weekly. The disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at Silver Street, Whitwick, and Ashby Road, Coalville. From the beginning of the year the collection of waste paper from domestic properties at the same time as refuse collection was instituted - separate containers being attached to the rear of the vehicles for this purpose.

A separate weekly collection of waste paper and cardboard salvage is made from shops, factories and offices.

The collection and disposal of trade refuse is also carried out by your Council. In the cases of properties with a rateable value of £75 or under, 1 free bin is allowed per week, and for properties over £75 rateable value, 2 free bins per week. All additional bins are charged at 6d each, quantities in excess being charged on a "cost plus" basis.

Applications for cesspool cleansing services are referred to a neighbouring Authority or to a private contractor for the use - on a direct re-chargeable basis - of their Gully and Cesspool Emptyer.

The amount of refuse collected and disposed of during the year was:-

Dustbins	12,515 tons
Ashpits, middens and pails	369 tons
Market	105 tons

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following tables show the total notifications after correction under age groups, and the deaths from infectious diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS

Age	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year			4						4	8		
1 - 2			13	17					35	45		
3 - 4	3	2	12	12					40	54		
5 - 9	2	5	13	13	1				81	94		
10 - 14									2	1		
15 - 24				1								
25 +												
Age Unknown												
Total	5	7	42	43	1				162	202		
	12		85		1				364			

/Notifications cont'd.

Age	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute Encephal- itis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fever		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Malaria	
							Infective	Post Infectious																		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			M	F	M	F		
Under 5 years	4	1																								
5 - 14	1	2		1																						
15 - 44	7	2	1											1					1				1			
45 - 64	12	8																								
65 +	13	8																								
Age Unknown																										
Total	37	21	1	1										1									1			
	58		2										1						1			1				

DEATHS

	Total	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+
Scarlet Fever													
Diphtheria													
Pneumonia	9	4										1	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever													
Whooping Cough													
Measles													

DIPHTHERIA

According to the return sent annually by Dr. Gibson, County Medical Officer of Health, the number of children immunised during the year was as follows:- Under 5 years 290, 5 to 14 years 12, a total of 302, whilst boosting injections were given to 240 children.

The following table shews the numbers immunised during the past 10 years.

Year.	-4.	5-14.	Total.	Boosters.
1946	443	16	459	4
1947	469	9	478	16
1948	377	9	386	96
1949	412	9	421	138
1950	339	27	366	169
1951	333	29	362	285
1952	323	8	331	231
1953	300	4	304	336
1954	289	9	298	268
1955	290	12	302	240

No cases of diphtheria have been notified since 1949. The number of children now being immunised for the first time remains fairly constant, and although there is some consolation in the fact, there is no room for complacency. It would appear that about one third of these who should be immunised are not being given the advantage of this most valuable protective treatment and further education of the public is desirable to reduce this proportion as far as possible. There will, of course, always be a hard core uninfluenced by education, propaganda or example, too apathetic, too ignorant, perhaps too lazy to pay attention, but the first to criticise and the first to panic should the disease appear amongst us again would be those same people.

Once more, I appeal to all parents to make certain that their children are immunised before they reach their first birthday, and that, at least, their immunity, so acquired, be reinforced just before they are due to start school.

Comparatively few parents of young children, of course, have come in contact with diphtheria, but almost all have some knowledge of whooping cough, its course, its discomforts, and its complications. Now that a satisfactory combined prophylactic for use against diphtheria and whooping cough is available, although not yet supplied through the County Council - supplies are available from chemists on a doctor's prescription - I feel that it is likely that the demand for immunisation against both diseases will increase, and that the figures as regards diphtheria will improve as a result of parents' fear of whooping cough. And if there is anything better than being immunised against diphtheria it is being immunised against whooping cough and diphtheria!

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis, and deaths from the disease during the year :

Age	New Cases						Deaths					
	Resp.		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other		Resp.		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5												
5-14	1				1							
15-24	1	2										
25-44	2	5										
45-64	3	2					2					
65+	1											
Total	8	9			1		2					

The death rate from respiratory tuberculosis is .08 per 1,000 of the population, compared with that for England and Wales - .13.

The following table shows the number of cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis and the deaths which occurred in Coalville in some previous years and in 1955 and should be studied in conjunction with the above table.

New Cases.Deaths.

	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1926	16	11	4	6	5	9		.
1930	17	26	9	7	5	10	1	1
1940	7	4	10	9	13	7	4	2
1945	10	8	4		11	8		2
1950	10	3	1		4	4		
1951	6	7		3	2	4		
1952	8	9	1		5	2	1	
1953	4	10	2	1	5	1		
1954	13	5	1	3	6	1		
1955	8	9	1		2			

I do not propose to comment further than to pose the question, Whither Tuberculosis?

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During 1955, 16 deaths occurred amongst children under 1 year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 40. This compares with a rate of 35 for 1954, 26 for 1953, 37 for 1952, and 24 for 1951, and with the 1955 rate for England and Wales - 24.9. The principal causes of death were congenital malformations, prematurity, and diseases affecting the respiratory system. 8 boys and 8 girls died before their first birthday, and of those, 4 boys and 6 girls died under four weeks. Consideration of the last-mentioned 10 deaths shows that 5 were due to diseases of the respiratory system, 3 to prematurity, and 2 to congenital malformations.

Although only two more children died under 1 year in 1955 than in 1954, this represents a rise in the rate from 35 to 40, which is most disappointing, the more so when one considers that the rate for England and Wales - 24.9 - is the lowest on record. The increase in the rate is more than accounted for by the increase in the number of deaths attributable to respiratory conditions. An interesting fact is that 6 deaths occurred at home and 10 in hospitals outside the district and of these 6, 3 were due to congenital malformations. It can be accepted that the 10 deaths which took place in hospital did so in spite of the most skilled care and attention, so that, in the light of these facts, the increased rate, whilst regrettable, is, at least, not attributable to factors lending themselves to easy control or solution. The neo-natal rate, that is, the death rate per 1,000 live births of children dying under 4 weeks is 25, compared with 17.3 for England and Wales, and it is obvious that improvement is most to be sought in this direction.

Table showing causes of Deaths and
sex distribution of Deaths in 1955

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2	0
Tuberculosis, other			
Syphilitic disease	1	1	
Diphtheria			
Whooping Cough			
Meningococcal infections			
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Measles			
Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	11	7	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	6	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	2		2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3		3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	19	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia			
Diabetes	2	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	43	22	21
Coronary disease, angina	30	21	9
Hypertension with heart disease	9	4	5
Other heart disease	34	20	14
Other circulatory disease	13	9	4
Influenza	3	3	
Pneumonia	9	6	3
Bronchitis	12	11	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	6	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea			
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	3	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion			
Congenital malformations	5	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	24	7	17
Motor vehicle accidents			
All other accidents	7	4	3
Suicide	2	2	
Homicide and operations of war			
ALL CAUSES	264	160	104

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Coalville Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once more it gives me pleasure to submit to you my Report on the activities of the Sanitary Inspectors section of the department during the year 1955.

Looking back over the year I see a period with no revolutionary changes in our work. No new Acts of any great importance came on to the Statute Book. We awaited new legislation to control the handling of food and new laws regarding atmospheric pollution. We felt however, a deepening interest on the part of the public on matters of public health, but longed for more. We wondered whether the future of the service did not depend to a great extent on health education in its broadest sense. Health education which starts with school children and becomes as important to them as the need to earn their bread and butter. One often hears criticism of the designers of modern schools because it is alleged that they have no regard to the cost. In my opinion these buildings with all their up-to-date facilities are amongst the finest achievements of the age. Such facilities as give every child an opportunity of breathing pure air, of working by natural light in hygienic surroundings and having proper toilet and washing facilities are bound to leave an impression which will remain long after Euclid is forgotten. The insistence by the teaching staff that each child must wash his or her hands before taking a meal is such a little thing but how important. The presence of these hot and cold water washing facilities, the nice white lavatory basin, the chromium plated soap dispenser and the papertowels lead one to contrast this with the older and less equipped school. The schools where the toilet facilities are old and look neglected. Where the washing facilities consist of one not so white sink, with a cold water tap over it, a piece of carbolic soap which might be on the sink or on the floor or not there at all, one roller towel which if changed twice a day would still look and be dirty when about 80 to 90 boys had cleaned their hands on it. Surely no-one wants to perpetuate such conditions.

I would like to say however, that the education authorities should devote some energy and money to the improvement of these older schools. Every year the reply seems to be that these schools have only a limited life and will be closed when more modern premises are built. But another year goes by and they are still in use.

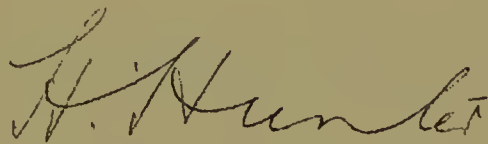
One appreciates that improvement of old premises can only be a short term policy but it should be done in the interests of those children who, through no fault of their own are required to attend them.

In April of 1955, we lost the services of Mr. N. A. Shutes who had been an additional sanitary inspector to your Authority for 18 years. He saw in that period many public health improvements in Coalville and gave you long and loyal service. We wish him happiness in his new appointment with the Whitchurch (Salop) U.D.C. Not until August were we able to find a successor to Mr. Shutes when you appointed Mr. D. Allen to fill the vacancy.

I cannot speak too highly of the way in which your staff have carried out their duties during the year. My thanks are due to them for their assistance and to Dr. Hamilton for his continued co-operation, advice and support and to the members and officers of the Council who at all time have encouraged and helped our work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Municipal Offices,
Coalville,
June, 1956.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

The sanitary accommodation in the Urban area at the end of 1955 was made up as follows :-

8713	-	water closets
12	-	privies in sewered areas
28	-	privies in areas at present unsewered
8	-	pails in sewered areas
113	-	pails in areas at present unsewered
9	-	middens in sewered areas
17	-	middens in areas at present unsewered
7	-	dry ashpits
4	-	chemical closets in sewered areas
11	-	chemical closets in areas at present unsewered

During the year the number of privies and pails was reduced by 13, leaving 20 which could be drained into a public sewer. By the laying of a sewer in Melbourne Road we were able to have converted a certain number of pail closets which had previously been in an unsewered area. In accordance with your policy £15 has been contributed towards the cost of each of the conversions.

Table showing the reduction in the number of pails
and privies in the District since 1946

<u>At 31st Dec</u>	<u>Sewered areas</u>		<u>Unsewered areas</u>	
	<u>Privies</u>	<u>Pails</u>	<u>Privies</u>	<u>Pails</u>
1946	94	94	136	154
1947	88	94	135	156
1948	153	100	46	151
1949	139	88	42	137
1950	122	74	36	125
1951	71	60	36	122
1952	27	39	34	121
1953	25	27	34	120
1954	14	9	34	117
1955	12	8	28	113

As previously reported, the Council have adopted Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936 and have undertaken to supply and maintain dust bins for the reception of house refuse. The annual charge being 5/- per bin.

The scheme has been in operation since April, 1951 and the following table shows the progress made.

New issues during 1955.	481
Replacements during 1955.	101
Total number of bins on charge.	1880
Total number of replacements.	216

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The particulars given below are for all purposes, including those given elsewhere in this Report, with the exception of rodent extermination.

Total number of complaints received - 330

" " notices served:

(a) formal	65
(b) informal	224

" " notices complied with :-

(a) formal	81
(b) informal	201

Inspections in connection with :-

	Dwellinghouses	2219
	Vorninous and dirty premises	4
	Drainage works	395
	Tents, vans and sheds	29
	Water supplies	21
	Smoke observations	17
	Outworkers, workshops, etc.	35
	Shops	19
	Keeping of animals	23
x	Rodent control	161
	Refuse storage, collection and disposal	527
	Schools	15
	Slaughterhouse & meat inspection	984
	Other food premises	588
	Bakehouses	18
	Dairies	114
	Miscellaneous Inspections	374
		<hr/>
		5,543
		<hr/>

x Not including visits by Rodent Operator.

Additional work was carried out as under :-

Milk samples for T.B. examination	64
" " " Br. Abortus "	133
Ice-cream samples	24
Water samples by Sanitary Inspectors	1
Milk Samples (Methylene Blue and/or Phosphatase test)	103

The number of notices served during the year, together with figures showing the number complied with, are given in the following tables :-

<u>PRELIMINARY</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Others</u>
Outstanding on 1st January	47	126
Issued during year	154	170
Complied with during year	74	127
Statutory action necessary	7	58
Outstanding on 31st December	120	95
<u>STATUTORY</u>		
Outstanding on 1st January	30	26
Issued during year	7	58
Complied with during year	17	64
Outstanding on 31st December	20	20

In no case was it found necessary to institute legal proceedings.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is now only one common lodging house in your district and this is situated in the City of Dan, Whitwick.

30 beds are provided for male lodgers only but the house has never been full to capacity during the year. The occupants are mainly regulars, there being few if any casual lodgers.

The premises are in poor condition and have been criticised in previous reports.

6,119 "lodger nights" were recorded during the year, an average of 16.8 lodgers per night, all males of full age. The figure for 1954 was 7,271. No cases of infectious disease were reported during the year.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

During the year eight licences were issued authorising the use of moveable dwellings on eight different sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. These premises were maintained in fair condition.

The Central Field continued to be used for fairs and for wintering by showmen and occasional use by unlicensed vans. No serious public health nuisance was created though at times the appearance left much to be desired.

It is pointless to close ones eyes to the problem of the caravan dwellers. It must be accepted that people do occupy that type of dwelling either from choice or force of circumstances.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Two houses have been let in lodgings during the year and have been inspected on frequent occasions, but at the end of the year only one was in use. No case of overcrowding was found at these premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the area.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area for public use. The Council's swimming baths were open to the public from 25th May to 1st October, 1955.

Daily tests of the water for chlorine residual and alkalinity were made and bacteriological examinations were satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the more modern schools in your area is satisfactory but in a few cases where the premises are old they leave something to be desired. One school in an unsewered part of the district still has conservancy type closet accommodation.

It was not necessary to close any schools on account of infectious disease nor was in any school disinfection carried out. One school was treated for cockroaches with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

The following tables are similar to those supplied to the Ministry of Labour and National Service and give details of inspection of factories and of defects found :-

TABLE 1	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	6	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	80	27	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	4	2	-	-
Total	90	33	1	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

TABLE 2	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	4	2	-	3
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	3	-	3

The table shown hereunder relates to outworkers and is a copy of the one submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

		Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of Outworkers in August list. (Sec.110(1)(c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises.	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	Making etc.	97	-	-	-	-	-
Umbrellas		2	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed Toys		48	-	-	-	-	-
Total		147	-	-	-	-	-

35 visits were made to outworkers homes during the year. In no case could exception be taken to the condition of the premises.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease in the homes of outworkers.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

No byelaws are in force in your district limiting the emission of black smoke.

The conversion to mechanised stoking of the steam raising plant at one colliery was completed during the year. The results have been excellent, for little or no smoke was observed to be coming from this chimney whereas in the past, as much as 28 mins. black smoke was recorded in an hours observation. The average emission of black smoke from this chimney over the years amounted to over 22 mins in every hour, whilst it was being officially observed and recorded. This improvement is of immeasurable benefit to the families residing in the vicinity of this unit. One other firm has had the F.R.S. smoke doors fitted to their Lancashire Boilers, with some lessening of the amount of smoke emitted.

It is however, not sufficient to instal new equipment and expect miracles. The way in which the operatives use it can make or mar its efficiency. Not until the status of the stoker is raised can we expect the most of these smoke reducing appliances.

We are still suffering from the use of steam locomotives in the centre of the town. The locomotives used for the hauling of coal are an especial nuisance, discharging great volumes of smoke, steam and grit into the atmosphere. I have in the past drawn attention to this nuisance but so far without success.

Prograss continues to be made in the erection of the new continuous kiln at one of the local brickworks to replace the existing round kilns. The work has taken much longer than was anticipated, and we are thus still suffering a gross smoke nuisance from these premises.

KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

23 inspections of piggeries and stable premises were made during the year. No serious nuisances arose and generally spoaking they were found to be kept in fair condition.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full time rodent operator is employed by your Authority under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the district is systematically inspected for infestations. A charge of 5/- per hour plus the cost of the materials is made for the treatment of business premises. More and more use of anti-coagulant has been made in the treatment of rat and mice infestations and been found to be very effective. It is felt, however, that the ease with which these preparations can be obtained is to be deprecated. They are not always used very wisely or to the best advantage. Quite often we are called upon to treat premises where the occupier, with the best of intentions has himself tried to free his home or shop of an infestation by laying one of the proprietary brand of poisons. It is then that we find a lack of appreciation of the danger arising from careless treatment. We find that one of the coagulants has been sprinkled about the place like dusting powder or one of the phosphorus poisons laid where it can be eaten by domestic animals or where children have access to it. We are ready at all times to help and advise people who have a vermin problem and the public should make full use of this service.

Your Authority's sewage farms, refuse tips and other properties and the banks of streams and brook-courses in the area receive regular attention. Sewer treatments were carried out in March and September.

The following is a summary of the work done :-

No. of premises treated for rats	...	...	281
No. of premises treated for mice	...	...	47
Total number of inspections (including survey)	...	...	4794

There were no major rat infestations during the year.

SECTION D

HOUSING

The year was marked by the submission of our 5 year slum clearance programme to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government. Our survey served to remind us that we have no slums within the strict meaning of the word. No slums or Courts such as one sees in the large industrial cities but many houses which by reason of their structural condition render them suitable for inclusion in a programme designed to clear away unfit houses. Much thought was given to this matter and it was eventually decided that 292 were suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Much of our efforts were directed towards the repair of houses with moderate success. The high cost of repairs and the low return from cottage property continues to make the position very difficult. Many owners are loath to repair their property let alone improve it and much persuasion and many threats are needed before we can get work done. The shortage of building labour for house repairs adds to this problem for where owners are willing to order repairs they have difficulty in finding a builder to execute them.

One might mention under this heading the extensive damage to dwelling houses and other buildings in your area due to mining subsidence. Sometimes the extent of the damage has to be seen to be believed and it often makes one wonder how the houses remain standing. We feel that the occupants are worthy of every praise for their forbearance, for at times they are living under frightful conditions. Every credit is due to the Officers of the Estates Department of the National Coal Board who lose no time in alleviating these conditions and repairing the damage caused by settlement. It is these everyday occurrences which absorb the available building labour leaving very little for jobbing repairs.

The following table gives details of the actual work done under the Acts during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	413
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	1770
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.	35
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	132
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	250

REPAIRS - Informal Action

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts.	87
---	----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

(1) Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a)	by owners	9
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	-

(2) Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16.)

(a)	by owners	4
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	1

DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS

(1) Housing Act, 1936

(a) Number of Demolition Orders made. 36

(b) Number of Closing Orders made. 2

(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

(a) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1). 2

(3) Rehousing.

	<u>Houses vacated</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
(a) Demolition Orders	20	73
(b) Closing Orders	4	17

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. 3

(2) Number of families dwelling therein. 3

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein. 26

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year. -

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year. -

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. -

The following table shows the defects remedied at houses during the year:-

Roofs repaired or renewed	59
Walls (External) repointed, etc.	35
Wall plaster repaired	36
Floors repaired or renewed	30
Ceiling plaster repaired	44
Windows repaired or renewed	67
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	9
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	8
Coppers provided or repaired	9
Sinks or wash basins provided	1

Sinks repaired or renewed	6
Sink waste pipe repaired or renewed	7
Interior water supplies provided	6
Repairs to water supplies	18
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	13
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	33
Food stores provided or repaired	3
Sashcords provided	16
Stairs repaired or renewed	7
Doors repaired or renewed	28
Woodwork repainted	3
Chimney and stacks repaired	30
Yards and passages paved or repaired	10
Dampness abated	24
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	2
Handrail fixed in staircases	4
Additional lighting provided	5

At the close of the year 828 post-war houses had been completed by your Authority (including 50 pre-fabricated houses), 48 by the East Midlands Housing Association and 341 by private enterprise.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

The following table shows the number of dairies and distributors registered on 31st December, 1955 and the number of inspections made:

	DAIRIES (other than dairy farms) and DISTRIBUTORS (Section 8, Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949)				
	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Contraventions		
			Found	Remedied	Outstanding on 31st Dec
Dairies	12	40	-	-	-
Distributors	39	74	-	-	-

The district was included in a Specified Area from the 1st December, 1954 and all milk sold must be heat treated or bear the designation Tuberculin tested.

The table below gives details of bacteriological sampling of milk during the year.

Designation	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
			No.	Approx %.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	9	8	1	11%
Tuberculin Tested	39	33	6	15%
Pasteurised	14	14	-	-
Sterilised	5	5	-	-
Undesignated Prior to Heat Treatment.	36	28	8	22%
TOTAL	103	88	15	15%

It will be observed that only 1 heat treated sample was found to be unsatisfactory and this was due to the atmospheric shade temperature exceeding 65°F. On the other hand 14 of the raw milks failed to comply with the Regulations. One can draw ones own conclusions from these results.

There is one pasteurising establishment licensed by the County Council in your district and this has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

During the year biological sampling of milk has increased, a total of 133 specimens having been submitted for examination as against 69 in 1954. One bulk sample on examination showed evidence of living tubercle bacilli. This resulted in the identification and slaughter of the affected animal.

5 bulk samples were found to contain brucella abortus. On further sampling from individual cows, 15 animals were found to be affected. In every case the milk from the affected herds was being sent for heat treatment and it was therefore not found necessary to serve any stoppage notices. The position however, is very unsatisfactory. We can identify the animals but no law exists to require the farmer to remove them for slaughter.

In view of the incidence of brucella abortus, and the possibility of raw milk containing other pathogenic organisms, it would be much more satisfactory if all milk was pasteurised before being sold to the public. There is no doubt in my opinion, that such milk is safer in every way and if anyone argues that pasteurisation destroys the vitamins in the raw milk then this deficiency can easily be made up by means of fresh fruits, vegetables, etc.

<u>Dealers Licences</u>		<u>Supplementary Licences</u>	
Pasteurised	17	Pasteurised	4
Sterilised	12	Tuberculin Tested	4
Tuberculin Tested	17		

(b) Meat and Other Foods

There are now 7 licencedslaughterhouses in your area including one bacon factory. The premises generally have been well maintained.

The following tables give details of the animals inspected, etc. during 1955.

Number of licenced slaughterhouses	7
Animals slaughtered therein	12445
Animals examined therein	12445
Inspections of meat at time of slaughter	984

DETAILS OF CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNATIONS.

TABLE A

	Cattle excl Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs & Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	984	317	14	2558	8572	NIL
Number inspected	984	317	14	2558	8572	NIL
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	2	8	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	390	79	-	258	790	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	39.6	24.9	7.1	10.1	9.3	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	106	62	-	-	342	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	10.8	19.5	-	-	4.0	-

TABLE A (cont'd).

<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	2	1	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	2	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE B.

Details of organs condemned and reason for condemnation.

Tubercular Offal etc:-

	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Pigs
Heads and Tongues	29	14	34	303
Pairs of Lungs	55	23	55	15
Mesenteries & Intest.	3	4	5	88
Stomachs	-	1	-	26
Hearts	2	-	1	6
Livers	8	6	13	-
Spleens	4	1	6	24
Skirts	-	1	9	3
Kidneys	2	-	-	3
Plucks	-	-	-	87
Udders	1	-	-	-

Non-Tubercular Offal etc:-

	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Pigs	Sheep Lambs
Heads and Tongues:					
Abscesses	-	-	1	2	-
Actinomycosis	3	3	4	-	-
Cysticercus Bovis	1	1	1	-	-
Pairs of Lungs:					
Abscesses	2	2	5	-	-
Congestion	-	-	1	-	19
Flukes	2	2	-	-	-
Cysts	2	1	-	-	-
Inflammation	-	1	-	-	-
Parasitic	1	1	1	-	45
Pleurisy	4	11	26	178	6
Pneumonia	-	-	6	553	4
Livers:					
Abscesses	4	5	24	2	7
Cavernous Angioma	3	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis	15	24	29	91	41
Cysts	1	-	1	20	3
Fatty Infiltration	-	-	-	2	-
Flukes	2	5	11	-	59
Necrosis	-	-	-	1	-
Parasitic	-	-	-	83	12
Peritonitis	-	-	1	82	-
Part Livers:-					
Abscesses	5	5	10	-	-
Cirrhosis	21	28	51	-	2
Flukes	22	36	128	-	1
Skirts:-					
Abscesses	-	-	1	-	-
Peritonitis	1	1	4	-	-
Spleens:-					
Abscesses	-	-	1	-	-
Peritonitis	5	5	13	11	-
Hearts:-					
Abscesses	-	-	1	-	-
Pericarditis	-	-	7	182	-
Stomachs:-					
Peritonitis	2	-	-	1	-
Mesenteries & Intest:-					
Peritonitis	-	-	1	2	-
Kidneys:-					
Cysts	-	-	-	33	-
Nephritis	-	-	1	5	-
Plucks:-					
Inflammation	-	-	-	16	-
Udders:-					
Mastitis	1	-	-	-	-

The weight of meat and offal condemned during the year amounted to 9tons.10cwts.2qrs.26lbs.

The incidence of Tuberculosis showed a reduction from 13.1% to 10.8% in the case of cattle excluding cows and from 25.8% to 19.5% in the case of cows. In the case of pigs the percentage affected rose from 3.7% to 4%.

35 persons were licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act. There were no contraventions during the year.

Under various legislation affecting food shops, stores, food preparation etc. premises, the undermentioned inspections were carried out:-

Butchers Shops	110
Fishmongers and Poulterers	7
Greengrocers and fruiterers	15
Grocers	109
Fried Fish Shops	12
Ice-cream premises	42
Manufacture and preparation of preserved food	27
Restaurants and Dining rooms	75
Food vans and vehicles	7
Public markets and foodstalls	92
Licensed premises	63
Bakehouses	18
Other food premises	29

13 written notices were served as a result of these inspections.

In our inspections of food premises a considerable quantity of food was examined. The following is a list of foods condemned:-

1427 tins Tomatoes	19 tins Coffee
13 tins Soup	86 lbs Fish
53 tins Vegetables	2 tins Tomato Juice
21 tins Beans	142 lbs Bacon
383 tins Fruit	285 lbs tinned Meat
14 tins Fruit Puree	224 lbs Beef
40 tins Evaporated & Condensed Milk	
31 tins Fish	23 lbs Pork
1 jar Pickles	
48 Cartons Cheese Spread	40 lb Lamb Chops
27 lbs Cheese	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ slabs Cream Cake
1 tin Pudding	
42 lbs Sugar	
4 jars Jam	

(c) Ice-Cream.

Under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, there were registered at the close of the year 82 premises for the sale of ice-cream and 1 for its manufacture and retailing. No ice-cream was manufactured at these latter premises during the year.

The "Standard code of practice" for these premises, adopted by your Authority in 1947, has been in operation throughout the year and has formed the basis on which all new applicants for registration have been dealt with. The "code" also laid down the official requirements for the construction of vehicles used for the sale of ice-cream, for the equipment to be carried and for the observance of hygienic practices by the vendors.

Generally speaking the premises from which ice-cream is sold are satisfactory and retailers appear to be fully aware of the need for scrupulous cleanliness in the handling of this important article of food.

24 samples of ice-cream were submitted for examination during the year. 18 of these were placed in provisional Grade I (Methylene Blue Test), 5 in Grade II. and 1 in Grade III.

(d) Adulteration etc.

Your Authority is not responsible for this work, the food adulteration clauses being administered by the County Council.

(e) Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

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